quantity involved was 74,018 MTs and it was offered to the exporters @ Rs. 4340/- per MT.

CBI raid on Central Warehouse, Khandwa

2269. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBI has raided the warehouse of the Central Warehouse, Khandwa on the 13th August, 2002 and exposed a large scale bungling there;

(b) what action has been taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) to (c) After conducting a surprise check at Central Warehouse, Khandwa from 9th August, 2002 to 12th August, 2002, the CBI registered a Preliminary Enquiry (PE). Action in the matter would be taken after receipt of the Investigation Report from the CBI.

Representation of claimants before Consumer Courts

2270. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tamil Nadu Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission has ruled that only lawyers can represent claimants in a Consumer Court;

(b) whether the consumer activists say that allowing only lawyers to plead consumer dispute cases would complicate matters and would defeat the very purpose of the Consumer Protection Act;

(c) whether under the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, a consumer in distress is not bound to hire a lawyer to represent him before the Consumer Courts; and

(d) whether Mumbai High Court has laid down that a claimant can be represented in Consumer Courts through an authorised representative not necessarily a lawyer?